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Top 10 astonishing architectural structures

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Shanghai World Financial Center



Egyptian Pyramids



Habitat 67



The Dancing House



Burj Dubai



Tapei 101



Wooden Gangster House



The Millau Viaduct



The Crooked House



Kubuswoningen

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The Eagles Meadow bridge in Wrexham has won an architectural award for its 'daring concept', today we look at some of the world's most eye-popping feats of construction with our top 10 architectural structures.

- **The Shanghai World Financial Center**

This supertall skyscraper in Shanghai, China is a mixed use skyscraper containing offices, hotels, conference rooms, observation decks, and shopping centres on the ground floors.

Park Hyatt Shanghai is the hotel component containing 174 rooms and suites, making it the highest hotel in the world.

On 14 September 2007 the skyscraper was topped out at 492.0 meters (1,614.2 ft), becoming the second tallest building in the world, and currently the world's tallest completed building by roof.

- **The Crooked House, Poland**

Built in 2003 this dizzying building is the brain child of Polish architect Szotynscy Zaleski who drew inspiration from children's illustrations created by Jan Marcin Szancer for fairytales and by the artwork of Per Dahlberg.

Located in the Rezydent shopping center in downtown Sopot, Poland the Crooked House has become the most photographed building in the whole country.

- **Habitat 67**

Habitat 67 is a housing complex and landmark located on the Marc-Drouin Quay on the Saint Lawrence River in Montreal, Canada.

Its design was created by architect Moshe Safdie, consisting of 354 cubes forming 146 residences.

No map of their structure seems to exist, which must make carrying your shopping home something of a nightmare.

- **Kubuswoningen**

More cube houses, this time built in Rotterdam and Helmond in The Netherlands, designed by architect Piet Blom in 1984.

Blom tilted the cube of a conventional house 45 degrees, and rested it upon a hexagon-shaped pylon, in total there are 38 small cubes and two so called 'super-cubes', all attached to each other.

Residents are often disturbed by curious passers-by, so one owner decided to open a "show cube", which is furnished as a normal house, and is making a living out of offering tours to visitors.

- **The Dancing House**

The Dancing House is the nickname given to the Nationale-Nederlanden building in Prague, Czech Republic.

It was designed by Croatian-Czech architect Vlado Milunić in co-operation with Canadian architect Frank Gehry on a vacant riverfront plot, finally completed in 1996.

Originally named Fred and Ginger the house stands out among Prague's famous Neo-Baroque, Neo-Gothic and Art Nouveau buildings, others, perhaps more accurately, have nicknamed it "Drunk House".

- **Burj Dubai**

This is the big one, Burj Dubai, a supertall skyscraper under construction in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, is the tallest man-made structure ever built, at 818 m (2,684 ft).

Construction began on 21 September 2004, and the tower is expected to be completed and ready for occupancy by the end of 2009.

- **Taipei 101**

Also known as the Taipei Financial Center, is a landmark skyscraper located in Xinyi District, Taipei, Taiwan.

Taipei 101 received the Emporis Skyscraper Award in 2004, and has been hailed as one of the Seven New Wonders of the World.

The building contains 101 floors above ground and 5 floors underground, its name reflects its floor count and carries additional symbolism in technology and Asian tradition, impressively it is designed to withstand typhoons and earthquakes.

- **Egyptian pyramids**

The oldest and most famous name in this list, the Egyptian pyramids have been seen as a wonder of architecture ever since their creation.

The age of pyramid building reached zenith at Giza in 2575-2150 B.C, their construction has baffled scientists for centuries.

The Great Pyramid of Giza is the largest in Egypt and one of the largest in the world, it was one of the Seven Wonders of the World, and the only one of the seven to survive into modern times.

- **Wooden Gangster House**

This is the intimidating house of Nikolai Sutyagin, gangster an ex-convict, standing 13 floors against the barren Russian landscape.

Arkhangelsk, Russia is home to the tallest wooden structure in the world, built in 1992 by Sutyagin to show his neighbors who the wealthiest man in the city was.

This impressive building can easily accommodate 18 people but Sutyagin now lives in four poorly heated rooms at the bottom of his deteriorating log cabin with his wife. The authorities frequently threaten to demolish it, but it still stands tall.

- **The Millau Viaduct**

The Millau Viaduct is an enormous, vertigo-inducing cable-stayed road-bridge that spans the valley of the river Tarn near Millau in southern France.

Designed by the structural engineer Michel Virlogeux and British architect Norman Foster, it is the tallest vehicular bridge in the world, with one mast's summit at 343 metres (1,125 ft) — slightly taller than the Eiffel Tower and only 38 m (125 ft) shorter than the Empire State Building.

Its construction broke three world records, the highest pylons in the world, the highest bridge tower in the world, and the highest road bridge deck in the world, would you drive across it?

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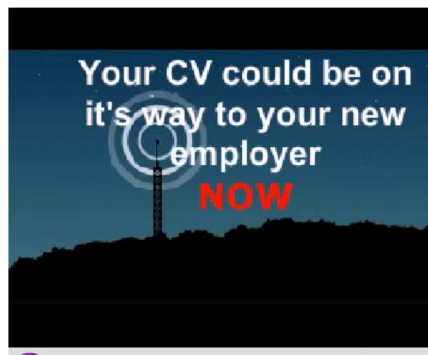
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